

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW-YORK, DECEMBER, 1849.

THE CHOLERA, THE BOARD OF  
HEALTH, THE MEDICAL COUN-  
SEL, AND HOMŒOPATHIA.

The public has not yet forgotten nor ceased to lament the terrific scourge which swept over our city during the past summer, carrying off more than eight thousand of our fellow citizens in the short space of two months. There was one event connected with that fearful period of pestilence and death to which the attention of the public must now be recalled, and which is of a nature to excite the severest indignation towards those who had the health of the city specially in charge. We allude to the meeting and contemptuous rejection by the Sanatory Committee of the Board of Health of the petition of a large number of highly respectable citizens for the establishment of a Homœopathic Hospital for the treatment and cure of cholera. Like the refusal of a commanding officer in the midst of a battle to supply with ammunition a gallant battalion against

which the demon of jealousy has inspired him with ill-will, it was an act against which the circumstances did not allow at the time so much as a protest, and the tyrannical injustice of which was, for that reason, only the more outrageous. Those who were betrayed by their superior in command had nothing left for it but to fight on under every disadvantage, and bide their time after the struggle was over for arraigning their faithless superior in command before the proper tribunal.

The smoke of the battle is now dissipated. The direful encounter has ceased. We have all had time to recover our breath to look about us and calculate the chances of the result had it been fought upon different principles. We have time, too, to prefer our charges against the unfaithful officer to whose invidious conduct no impartial man can fail to attribute a great portion of the disasters of the engagement. To drop the figure, we have now an opportunity for the first time, to bring before the public attention and to present in its true light an act of official injustice and oppression on the part of the Sanatory Committee, which has few parallels in the history of official assumption.

We have waited patiently the publication of the Report of the Sanatory Committee of the Board of Health in order that we might know their ground of defence for their apparent denial of an unquestionable right. That report is now before the public and we copy from it their own version of the transaction. The following is the passage which relates to the subject.

On the 14th day of June, a petition was sent in to the Board of Health, requesting the establishment of a cholera hospital, in which patients might be treated on the homœopathic plan. This petition having been referred to the Sanatory Committee, was by them again referred to the medical council, by whom the following report was made:

NEW YORK, JUNE 19th, 1849.

A resolution having been offered to the Board of Health, 'that a hospital for the reception of cholera patients be established in this city, in which the practice of homœopathic physicians shall be pursued,' and the same having been referred by the Sanatory Committee to the Medical Counsel, the undersigned state that should the above resolution be adopted, they see no satisfactory reason why the same courtesy should not be extended to the Hydropathists—the Thompsonians—the Chrono-thermalists, and indeed all others claiming to have specific modes of treating the cholera.

By intelligent and well educated physicians generally, homœopathy is looked upon as a species of empiricism. It is neither practised by them, nor countenanced by them. Concurring entirely with their professional brethren on this subject, the undersigned conceive that the public authorities of our city would not consult either their own dignity or the public good, by lending the sanction of their name or influence to homœopathy or any other irregular mode of practice.

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In adopting this report, the Sanatory Committee did not wish to be considered as expressing any opinion either in favor or against what is commonly denominated homœopathy. This they viewed as a subject entirely beyond their province. In executing a great public trust, however, which had been committed to their hands, they did not feel that they had the right of arraying themselves against any of the existing institutions of the community for whom they were acting. However defective these institutions might be, it was not for them to set about the work of reform. In looking round, accordingly, they found the medical profession existing in a certain form, exercising certain rights and privileges conceded by law, and recognized by long usage and general suffrage. The medical profession was, in fact, one of the legitimate divisions into which society had resolved itself, and for the performance of the most important functions subservient to the public good. Taking this view of the subject, the Committee felt it to be their duty to have nothing to do with medicine, except as they found it embodied in what is understood and known both by the public, as well as physicians, as the regular profession. While in this way they paid all suitable respect to so honorable a profession as that of medicine, the Committee felt that they did no injustice to those who suppose themselves in advance of the age, and profess themselves gifted with superior knowledge and wisdom.

The facts in relation to this subject are these: there are now more than FIFTY homœopathic physicians in full practice in the city of New-York, sustained by the various

classes of society, including at the very least a proportion of the wealthy, intelligent and respectable classes of the community quite equal to those which are to be found among the patrons of the old school. These physicians are all, without exception, regularly educated and graduated from the ordinary medical schools and colleges, with their diplomas signed, sealed, and delivered, with the same orthodox regularity as those physicians of the other branch of the profession called Allopathists. Many of them hold diplomas signed by members of the very Medical Counsel, upon whose dictum the attempt is now made to pronounce them quacks. They differ from the old school only in relation to the law of cure, which is a single branch of professional learning, and not more widely upon that than different sects among Allopathists differ from each other. The disciples of Brown and of Broussais, are, if possible, wider apart upon this subject than the disciples of Hahnemann are from either.

The friends of the Homœopathic practice in this city had, long previously to the advent of the cholera, established a city dispensary, at which all kinds of diseases were treated. The statistics of this institution, which were always open to public investigation, were a triumphant argument in favor of Homœopathy, and concurred with that universal current of statistics from all parts of the world, which has demonstrated the superiority of the new over the old practice, and is rapidly substituting the one for the other.

But in cholera especially, the disparity in the results of the two systems is enormous. In Cincinnati and St. Louis, where the epidemic raged most fearfully, the per centage of deaths, under Homœopathic treatment, was only *one-third of one per cent.*, or *one in three hundred*, while, under the old treatment, of all sorts, the loss was *sixty per cent.*, or *sixty in one hundred*.

Fortified by facts like these, and by their own knowledge of the benign and happy effects of Homœopathy in their own persons, and among their own families and friends, a large number of citizens, including many of the most respectable and distinguished gentlemen of the city, petitioned the Board of Health that some one of the Cholera Hospitals of the city might be put under the administration of Homœopathic practitioners. The petition was referred to the Sanatory Committee, and by them to

the Medical Council, consisting entirely of Allopathic physicians.

The Medical Council advised against granting the petition. Considering the weaknesses of human nature, this was almost a matter of course. One excuses the tenacity with which the adherents of an old and exploded theory stick to the dead carcass, and reject a new and living form of truth, when we know that it was more than one hundred years before "intelligent and well-educated physicians generally" would adopt the simple process of tying an artery with a ligature, suggested by Ambroise Paré as a substitute for the old and barbarous system of searing the bleeding stump of a limb with a hot iron; and that not one member of the profession, who had reached the age of forty years, cotemporaries of Harvey, that did not die opposing his theory of the circulation of the blood, which is now universally adopted. Fortified by such illustrious examples of "regular" professional stupidity, the gentlemen of our Medical Council may, perhaps, successfully defy the world to convict them of anything unprofessional or irregular in their part of the procedure. Aside from such high authorities, we should have thought that the proposition to establish a hospital, to test, in so rapid and fearful a disease as cholera, the pretensions of a system which they take constant pains to represent as utterly inert, would have delighted our medical brethren of the old school. It is a pity that their sense of dignity stood in the way of their making a trial, which might have silenced at once and for ever the advocates of the new practice. The public, however, may be safely left to judge whether it was their sense of dignity alone, or their fear of the results of a trial of the two systems, brought into such direct and immediate comparison, which dictated their discourteous advice to the Sanatory Committee.

It is not of the Medical Council that we wish now to speak. They were in the position of the lawyer, whose sympathy for his client may warp his perception of justice, and even lead him, by over zeal, to mismanage his cause; but the Sanatory Committee were in the position of the judge, from whom all parties had the right to claim and to expect impartiality and justice. They were embodied, to use their own language, for the execution of "a great public trust." Let us see, then, with what fidelity they have executed it. We have said there are fifty regular Homœopathic physicians

in the city. Supposing only one thousand persons contributing to the support of each physician, we have no less than 50,000 persons in New-York who believe, upon the strength of evidence which they do not question, and which cannot be disproved, that, in the case of an attack of the cholera, their chance of recovery is from ten to three hundred times greater for a recovery in the hands of a Homœopathic physician. A respectable number of men, representing the opinions of this body of 50,000 citizens, ask that a portion of the taxes which they pay for Cholera Hospitals may be appropriated to the management of a hospital, upon such a system that they, if attacked, can enter it with the hope of a recovery, and that they be not forced to enter, in their helplessness, a hospital where, in their belief, they are to be subjected to a fearful and an unnecessary amount of risk. The Sanatory Committee denied their request, on the ground that they, the Committee, cannot array themselves against any of "the existing institutions of the community." What institution? The institution of Allopathy? We never heard of any such. Is it the institution of the medical profession? Then, why not grant to the whole of that profession its rights; and we have shown that the Homœopathic physicians are as regular a part of that profession as any other. But all this is sheer nonsense. There is no such institution in existence which has any rights in the matter. We have never heard that there is a set of men in the community, who claim as a right to doctor the people, whether the people will or no, and to whom the people are regularly farmed out, as a source of revenue, by law. An existing institution, forsooth. We have heard of a "peculiar" institution at the South; but, if our Sanatory Committee be right, we have one still more peculiar in our midst. The simple question of fact is, have the people a right to be doctored by whom they choose, or is there an institution which has a prescriptive right to doctor them, and whose rights the Sanatory Committee is bound to preserve? Is their "great public trust" a trust for the people, or a trust for the benefit of some imaginary institution, having rights over the people? Undoubtedly, if they understood their trust at all rightly, it would be the former. As they understood it, it was clearly the latter.

The whole theory of our government is involved in this absurd claim of the Board of Health. Suppose the whole people of New-

York become satisfied of the superiority of Thompsonianism over every other kind of medical treatment, and they ask to have hospitals upon that plan. What is the institution of the Sanatory Committee that shall say their nay, on the ground that Thompsonianism is an irregularity. Suppose one half the people become so convinced, shall not the servants of the whole people provide for the wants of that half, as well as for those of the remaining half? To deny this, is to ignore the American doctrine of the rights of the people. The only question before the Sanatory Committee, therefore, properly was, what proportion of the people desire a Homœopathic hospital, and is it a sufficient proportion of the whole to entitle them to one or more out of the number of hospitals to be established? On either ground, therefore, the action of the Committee was oppressive and tyrannical, and their grounds for it untenable. If Homœopathy were the sheerest quackery in existence, if a sufficient number of the population required it, the Board of Health had no other "great public trust" in the matter than to provide it. To talk of protecting the interests of the existing institutions of society as against the wishes of their constituents, and that in such a manner as to subject a portion of those constituents, unwillingly, to a risk of death equal to sixty per cent., instead of a risk of one-third of one per cent., is an intolerable stretch of official dictation, not to speak of its cruel inhumanity. Such would be the case, as we have said, in the case of any amount of irregularity in the kind of practice; but, as we have already shown, the whole attempt to make Homœopathy figure as an irregular or empirical practice, outside of the regular profession, is a sheer assumption, unsustained by the facts. The Homœopathic physicians are men of equal learning with Allopathists, educated at the same schools, certified to by the same authorities, and patronized by as respectable and intelligent a section of the community. Is it not clear, therefore, that the Board of Health, in its action on this subject, not only committed a gross outrage upon the rights of a large portion of the citizens of New-York, but that the Sanatory Committee, in their report, to cover that injustice from the public apprehension by false assumptions, injurious to the fair fame of an educated and respectable branch of the medical profession.

It is not improbable that we may have another visitation of the cholera the next season.

Shall the 50,000 persons in this city, who believe that Homœopathic treatment reduces the dangers of this disease to a mere trifle, be allowed to be treated according to their own choice, or shall they be forced, in order not to interfere with "an existing institution," to swallow drugs and submit to barbarous practices, which, by the official confession of that "institution," make death more than an equal chance? We ask justice alone at the hands of the authorities. We do not ask that any one should be compelled to adopt Homœopathic treatment. We only protest against being compelled to adopt the Allopathic. Are our rights, as a portion of the tax-paying people, or the rights of the medical "institution," paramount?

The Anniversary meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine (Allopathic) was celebrated last week by a public meeting, and an address by Dr. A. C. Post, who made a violent attack on Homœopathia, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. It is remarkable that Allopathists have not yet learned that misrepresentations of Homœopathia cannot retard its progress. The New York Academy, we understand, is nearly defunct, not unexpected by those who can appreciate the spirit of the age.

(Continued from Page 107.)

## PRACTICAL REMARKS.

BY DR. W. HUBER.

### IV.—Pleuritis.

Maria Hager, æt. 20, unmarried, of sanguine temperament, and strong and regular in her periods. In her 16th year she was chlorotic, but quite healthy since. The present attack commenced without assignable cause on 2d January, 1846, with a diarrhoea which still continues. On 10th January she was attacked with violent shivering, then heat, thirst, headache, and shooting pain in the left side of the chest, difficulty of breathing, and extreme lassitude. Blood-letting, mustard poultices, and allopathic draughts which were employed for six days only increased the complaint. On the 17th, the state of the patient was as follows: oppressive pain in the head, with giddiness, red and turgid face, eyes sparkling and hot, with yellowish tinge of the sclerotic coat. Her tongue was yellow, she had a bitter taste in her mouth, no appetite, very strong thirst, sometimes nausea and vomiting of a bilious fluid, distention of the abdomen without pain, apparent enlargement of the spleen; since yesterday there have been five greenish liquid motions, unattended with pain. The urine was scanty, scalding, and fiery red. Cough, with expectoration of a quantity of tough slimy mucus bespecked with small particles of blood, very great weight on the chest, as if a weight



lay on it; the breathing was in the highest degree difficult, short, and anxious; she can only lie on her back. *Violent shooting pain* in the left side of the chest, especially on moving. On inspection, the thorax was found to have a bulging of its lower part on the left side; the intercostal spaces are very prominent outwardly in that quarter. On percussion, the left half of the chest was found to yield quite a dead sound, behind and at the side; at the posterior and inferior parts of the thorax, the respiratory movement could not be heard; a little higher up there was bronchial respiration and mucous rales, as well as bronchophony. The heart, which was displaced to the centre of the thorax, showed nothing abnormal in itself. The temperature of the skin was *burning hot*, with dryness, and *feverish pulse* at 90 beats, full and hard. The patient's sleep was very much disturbed, there was much bodily weakness and *anxiety of mind*. Notwithstanding this severe attack she had her menses for three days; they ceased to-day.

*Treatment.*—Aconite 1, a drop every three hours in water.

On the 17th and 18th there was no change, with the exception of aggravation in the evening.

On the 19th, in the morning, the violence of the fever is broken and the distress considerably relieved. No giddiness or headache, tongue rather cleaner, bitter taste, much thirst, no appetite, abdomen is no longer swollen, continuance of the diarrhœa, (four times since yesterday morning), urine as before; cough less frequent, sputa more easily brought up, and more abundant, without any appearance of blood, dyspnœa diminished, shooting pain less severe, but extending to the centre of the sternum. The pleuritic effusion appeared to be greater rather than less than before; the auscultatory signs unchanged. Skin moist and everywhere in a state of perspiration, the temperature not so burning hot. Pulse, 70 beats per minute. The improvement continued throughout the day, and the patient slept well at night in a profuse sweat.

On the 20th her state was the same. I discontinued aconite, and gave a drop of *bryonia alba* every three hours. From the 21st to the 23d the fever abated still more, the thirst disappeared, there was but one loose stool each day; much turbid urine was passed with whitish sediment; the cough, no longer convulsive, brought up a good deal of sticky phlegm and rarely a trace of blood. There was no longer any oppression on the chest, dyspnœa, or stitch in the side, even on motion; the skin was merely pleasantly warm, pulse softer, at 65, and sleep more composed; feeling of weakness continued. The physical signs were unaltered, except that there was more rattling sound, but less effusion.

From the 24th to the 26th this state of things continued. She began to feel some desire for food, the bitter taste disappeared and there was no diarrhœa; the urine was clear-

er and more plentiful; the expectoration was abundant and free from blood; the heart was returning to its normal situation, there was feeble bronchial respiration and much mucous rattling.

From the 27th to the 29th the patient continued to improve and become free from fever. Her strength increased daily; the expectoration diminished a good deal; the mucous rales disappeared; the breathing was more bronchial, but sharp and vesicular, with fine crepitation; the lower part of the left thorax is alone somewhat dull on percussion.

By the 1st of February all cough and expectoration were gone, the heart was in its proper situation; auscultation and percussion showed nothing abnormal; the left intercostal spaces were no longer protuberant; the patient could sleep well and felt so well as to be able to dispense with any further treatment.

#### V.—Carditis.

Franz Rad, æt. 19, a weaver, feeble, of sanguine temperament, has been free from disease since he was a child. Three weeks ago he was affected without known cause, with shivering, then heat, violent shootings in the right side of the chest, and *strong palpitation and dyspnœa*. He thinks he must have been working too hard. The shooting pain in the right side diminished in the course of these three weeks, but the dyspnœa and beating of the heart increased so much as to keep him from his work, and he began to cough and spit up, but only for a few days.

Feb. 21st. *Present state of the patient.*—Head free from pain; yesterday evening epistaxis from right nostril; tongue clean, much thirst, natural appetite and taste; the pit of the stomach and region of the liver are rather tender on pressure; feces and urine normal; no cough; *heavy oppression of the chest, difficulty in breathing*; shooting pain in the right side of the chest, when lying on that side; *constant palpitation with anxiety, weight on the heart*, making him sigh frequently. On percussion, the dead sound indicating the subjacent texture of the heart was found on one side as far as the middle of the sternum, and on the other side, over an unusual extent of the left side of the thorax. *The impulse of the heart was very strong indeed*, striking against the ear with violence; in the left ventricle, instead of the usual sounds, there were blowing and rasping sounds accompanying both the systole and diastole. The sound which was heard with the diastole was particularly loud over the aortic valves, and was distinguishable, with diminished intensity, however, along its arch. The sound heard over the pulmonic valves was particularly sharp. *The skin was dry and hot; pulse much accelerated*, beating 100 in the minute, full, strong, and bounding against the finger; sleep disturbed with frequent crying out; very anxious; timorous state of mind.

*Treatment.*—Aconite 1, a drop every 2 hours in water.

In the night of the 21st Feb. he had the first good night's sleep he had enjoyed for some time. On the morning of the 22d, the impulse of the heart was felt to be much less and does not lift the ear during auscultation. In the afternoon his nose bled a little; auscultatory signs as they were. Night, sleep good.

Feb. 23d.—Much the same. Treatment, the same. All night patient slept peacefully, and perspired strongly.

Feb. 24th.—The heart-stroke is much softer and abated in strength; at night, sweating and good sleep.

Feb. 26th.—No change of any kind.

Feb. 27th.—He had nothing to complain of; the breathing, action of the heart and pulse are quite natural. *The noise over the aortic valves is gone*; there is only a little blowing murmur still heard over the mitral valve during the ventricular systole, but much feebler than before. The skin is cool, and all the functions normally performed. The same medicine was continued.

March 2d.—The mitral murmur has also disappeared over the left ventricle, the clicking sound accompanying both movements of the heart might be distinctly heard; the valves acted perfectly. The patient is beginning to be hungry again. The medicine continued.

March 3d.—On percussion I found the dull sound over the heart to be of normal extent. No medicine. In four days more the patient was well enough to resume work.

#### VI.—Peritonitis.

Susannah Mayer, æt. 30, an unmarried woman, of weakly constitution, of sanguine temperament, regularly menstruated, was chlorotic till after passing her 23d year, but has since been in good health. She menstruated 12 days since. The present attack came on March 12th, 1846, without any reason she can assign. She was at first cold, then hot and thirsty, bad headache, lost her appetite, tried to vomit, and passed some loose stools, with slight pain in the bowels. Thinking perhaps she had eaten something indigestible, she took a powder, bought at a druggist's, "for the wind and bile," containing jalap and cream of tartar. From the moment of her swallowing this mixture, the pain in the abdomen became more and more violent, and the surface became so tender that she could not endure to be touched ever so gently; the bowels were moved several times amid fearful sufferings, but this looseness was followed by complete constipation and frequent vomiting. Various allopathic remedies were tried without effect; the patient was always growing worse. On the 20th March, her state was as follows: *Face pale, and expression of fear and anxiety; shooting pain in the forehead, with heat of head; tongue moist, with yellowish-white coating; bitter taste; intense thirst; no appetite; frequent risings and inclination to vomit; vomiting of thin fluid, like verdigris, especially after taking food or drink; abdomen tympanitic and*

*its whole extent unutterably painful on the slightest touch; unremitting cutting and shooting pain in the bowels, especially at night; obstinate constipation for several days past; urine scanty, hot, and red; respiratory organs and heart unaffected; skin hot, but moist; feet cold; pulse at 100, small, hard, and compressed; general debility; sleeplessness.*

*Treatment.*—Aconite 1, a drop every second hour, in water.

In the night from the 20th to 21st, there was great aggravation of the pain in the abdomen; the patient kept screaming out most of the night, and vomited up a quantity of green, very bitter bile. The focus of the pain was at the umbilicus, from which it radiated over the whole abdomen to the interscapular and lumbar regions. No stool notwithstanding clysters of oil and water. Warm bandages increased the pain; cold ones gave trifling relief.

March 21st.—The vomiting and anxious feelings are better, and the pain seems rather less; in other respects there is no change. At night there was an aggravation, but slight, and without vomiting.

March 22d.—Some improvement; abdominal pain diminished, and chiefly felt when pressure is used; less tympanitis; patient has had a small knotty stool of a dark green color; urine scanty and fiery; skin dry, its temperature not very high; pulse 90. This state lasted till 6 p. m. from which time the pain gradually subsided, the patient fell into a sweet refreshing sleep, with general perspiration, which lasted all night.

March 23d.—The patient awoke this morning, free from pain; her head still somewhat painful about the forehead; eyes brighter; tongue coated yellow; no thirst; bitter taste; no appetite, but no nausea; abdomen soft and free from pain; no action of the bowels; urine still sparing in quantity, and cloudy; skin very moist; and pleasantly warm; pulse at 70, full, soft and swelling; she is cheerful, and slept quietly the night through.

March 24th.—Pulse no longer quick, but altogether normal. Appetite returning.

25th.—She is quite well, excepting a *bitter taste, belching of flatulence, and constipation*. At 8 in the evening she had rather a smart attack of *colic*; there was *cutting pain* in the small intestines, with periodical aggravation, which made her writhe like a worm; also *thirst, bitter taste, and inclination to vomit*.

26th.—*Treatment*—Colocynth 4, a drop of the tincture every third hour. During this day she had several slight attacks of colic. In the evening and night she had a return of the severe colicky pain, but this time it alternated with *draving pain* in the right hip-joint and thigh, together with *stiffness and want of power* in the latter. Warm applications proved *grateful and soothing*.

27th.—The pain has now quite left the abdomen, but not the right hip-joint, in which it is still felt, now and then pretty severely. The first circumstance determined me to con-

time *colocynth*, though the latter might point to the employment of some other allied remedy. The propriety of my decision seemed confirmed by there being no colic or pain in the limb up to

1st April—But on the evening of that day dreadful pain in the bowels, coming on at intervals, of a cutting kind and bending the sufferer forwards; it extended from the pit of the stomach to below the navel, and was at times extremely violent, so much so as to make her think she could not survive it; she sometimes sat up in bed, sometimes lay down, or threw herself from side to side. The pain was alleviated by warm applications. She had a bitter taste in her mouth; eructations; efforts to vomit; pressure at the stomach, as if a heavy stone lay there; difficult breathing; distension of the abdomen by wind; constipation; clear, straw-colored urine; skin moist and cool; pulse contracted, not feverish. The patient was irritated at the return of the complaint, and the non-success of the treatment. I discontinued *Colocynth* and gave her *Chamomile 2*, a drop every hour in water. In five hours the pain was quite gone; she fell into a quiet sleep, from which she awoke next morning cheerful and free from pain, of which she had no return. The bowels were moved properly and continued to be so daily, the bad taste was removed, appetite and sleep returned. By the 11th she was quite well.

#### VII.—*Proitis*.

Anne Schwandtner, æt. 43, unmarried, thin, of choleric temperament, has been regularly menstruated since her 16th year, and has always enjoyed good health. On 4th Jan. 1846, in consequence of exposure to a draught when heated by exertion, she was suddenly seized with violent shooting pain in the right lumbar region, extending to the right breast and thigh, and preventing her from moving freely. Next day she had shiverings for an hour, followed by heat, thirst, and lassitude.

Jan. 9th.—the following is the state of the patient: Pressive headache and confusion in the head, such as is felt after a long sleep, mawkish taste; tongue white; great thirst; frequent belchings of wind; little appetite; motions rather hard; urine reddish, with brick-colored sediment. Slight dry cough; the thoracic organs normal. On pressure, or on moving the body, violent electric-like shooting pains proceeding from the neighborhood of the right kidney and going down to the groin and thigh of the same side. She could not, for pain, raise herself, or rotate the limb. Skin hot and moist; pulse at 90; sleep uneasy, from the fever increasing in the evening and night, and contentious dreams.

Treatment.—*Bryonia 3*, a drop every third hour in water.

Jan. 9th.—No change till night when the fever rose, and she complained of drawing, shooting pain, sometimes in the limbs, sometimes in the right shoulder.

Jan. 10th, in the morning.—No fever; no

pain in the thigh, which she could use with freedom. On pressing firmly on the regions of the ascending and descending colon, a little pain was still felt, otherwise the patient felt quite well. She slept well at night.

Jan. 11th.—No pain, even on pressure; good appetite; bowels regular; patient could leave her bed. No medicine was given. I saw the patient on the 24th, up to which time no relapse had taken place, and she appeared to enjoy excellent health.—*Æst. Zeit. f. Hom.*, IV. 2.

(To be continued.)

#### THE CHOLERA—ITS TREATMENT.

So much has been written on the cholera and its treatment, that a portion of our readers may regard it unnecessary to encumber the pages of this Journal with any thing more on that subject. But a friend of ours has written to us, and among other things, he has given the result of his observations, which embrace some points too valuable to be lost, therefore we make a permanent record of them.

"The cholera season has been protracted here, to nearly four months. I have seen many cases myself, and my intimacy with the physicians of every school, has given me good opportunities to know how far Homœopathia has been successful. Every case treated Homœopathically, not only gave the physician new faith and confidence in himself, but also confirmed the favorable expectation of the community. And our physicians, unlike many of other schools, never refused to take patients, let the cases be ever so hopeless. True they lost some of those where the disease had progressed beyond the reach of all other remedies; but we can point out many, in the most desperate extremity, and some too, who had been drugged and stupified and given up by other physicians, on whom the Homœopathic treatment acted like a charm. Prophylactics (*veratrum* and *cuprum*) were put into the hands of almost every family that believed in them; and in no case where they were used according to directions has there been an attack of cholera. There were some who used every other preventive and finally fell into old school hands and died. This was to be expected. One man called on me, and protested he had used the prophylactics faithfully, but had also taken, during the preceding fortnight, two doses calomel, four doses laudanum, two doses castor oil, and one bottle botanical hot mixture, besides several other domestic remedies;

and expressed great dissatisfaction that the diarrhoea that now troubled him would not yield to *phos. acid*. On inquiry I found that he had the rice-water discharges, and every indication that vomiting was about to set in. I told him so, and recommended *Veratrum* and *Ipecac.*; but he would not take them; sent for a physician of the old school and took calomel, and died in about four hours.

"In cholera, *Phos. acid* and *Phos.* have proved their title to confidence. In rice-water discharges, unaccompanied with vomiting or spasms, some say that *Iatroph.* 30, has done better than *Verat.* My experience, however, is in favor of the latter, not only in the 3d attenuation, but better in the 30th, and in one case of protracted discharges of starch or albuminous consistency, *Verat.* 200, produced a green stool in 20 minutes, and 20 minutes after, a copious, urinary discharge.

"*Ipecac.* in all cases, whether accompanied with nausea or not, where the pain or rumbling was seated above the umbilical region, has never failed to do all that could be asked, provided the patient kept still, and in a supine position. It matters not what potency.

"*Hydroc. acid* has been tried without any effect. Que? Does not this remedy lose its effect by age, whether potentized or not?

"*Tabac.* has helped in many cases: *Arsenic* in but a very few: *Carb. veget.* has shown itself efficacious; but has seldom been indicated, except in some individual cases, where the rally could only be temporary, on account of excessive vital deficiency.

"I think that, where the physician has been of that caliber of mind which profits by observation, his impressions must be much more favorable to the high potencies in Cholera, than before this visitation; and much against repeating the remedy oftener than from four to eight hours, if at all. There have been cases in which the patient has gone right into a collapsed state with no cramps, little or no vomiting, and very few discharges of any kind. In these cases no remedy failed of producing some effect, if rightly applied; but no permanent effect could be realized. These cases have been very numerous in the old school practice.

"The disease has been very fatal among children, by terminating in congestion of the head. *Bell.* 30th, has always proved efficient when given in season; and with the help of *Hellebor.* has generally cured. These cases,

however, have been much prolonged, now and then, by *helminthiasis*; and sometimes, in spite of all treatment, (and in no cases more so than when too much treated) have terminated fatally.

"It is to be lamented that some concert of action could not have been made, so that the public could be favored with a full report of our treatment. But unfortunately such cannot be. Yet it cannot be denied that large gains upon the public confidence have been made by Homoeopaths, under all discouragements."

The Cholera sicca, (dry Cholera) mentioned by our correspondent, yielded promptly in our hands to *Camphor* and *Ipecac.* During the late epidemic we had five cases, three yielded to the latter remedy, and two to the former. Slight nausea indicated the *Ipecac.* However, we regard this the most dangerous form of that disease, for death ensues, often in a very short period; sometimes the patient will be beyond the reach of the remedy in thirty minutes. Some of our wise ones in pathology in this city, mistook this fatal form of Cholera for a congestion of the lungs; we cannot say they were wrong in this, their error consisted in not recognizing the presence of Cholera.

## HAHNEMANN AND HIS WIFE.

(Continued from page 110.)

At that moment our conversation was interrupted by the entrance of a lady. She was attired in a simple *demi-toilette* and wore no bonnet; I therefore concluded she was not a guest. The instant she entered, the delicate-looking child my new acquaintance had been caressing on her knee, sprang suddenly to the ground, and greeted the lady with expressions of the most affectionate joy. She was an elegant-looking woman, with a finely-rounded form, somewhat above the medium height. Her face could not be called beautiful, nor pretty, but the term handsome might be applied to it with great justice. Her forehead was full and high, and her hair thrown back in a manner which perfectly displayed its expansive proportions. Those luxuriant tresses of a bright flaxen hue, were partly gathered in a heavy knot at the back of her head, and partly fell in long ringlets behind her ears. Her complexion was of that clear but tintless description, which so strongly resembles alabaster. There was a thoughtful expression in her large blue eyes, which, but for the benignant smile on her lips, would have given a solemn aspect to her countenance.



She exchanged a few words with Madame de R——, kissed the child with much tenderness, and addressed several other persons present. While she was conversing, the child still retained her hand, following her about and pressing close to her side, with its little pale affectionate face upturned at every pause, as though silently soliciting a caress. In a few minutes she retired.

I turned to Madame de R——, and inquired,

"Is that Madame Hahnemann?"

"Yes; is she not a fine looking woman?"

"Undoubtedly. And from her appearance, alone, I can well imagine her endowed with many of the attributes you have described her as possessing.

Your little son appears very much attached to her?"

"Poor little fellow! he has good cause to be so. He had suffered from his birth with a scrofulous affection, which baffled the skill of the best medical men in Paris. They gave me no hope of his recovery, and he is my only child. At three years old he was unable to walk or even stand alone. It was then that Hahnemann arrived in Paris, and I immediately called upon him. It was impossible to bring the child here, without risking his life, and Hahnemann attends to no patients out of the house. Madame Hahnemann told me, however, not to be uneasy, as she would herself take charge of the boy. She visited him regularly twice a day, watched him with the anxious tenderness of a mother, and prescribed for him in a manner which proved the extent of her judgment and skill. In a few months the child recovered. He has never had a positive return of the disease, but he remains exceedingly delicate. I bring him to see his good friend and physician every few weeks for the sake of learning her opinion of his health and consulting her concerning his management."

"Do you mean that Madame Hahnemann prescribes for him on her own responsibility?"

"I do. She is almost as thoroughly acquainted with medicine as her husband. She became his pupil with the view of assisting him when age might weaken his faculties. She now attends to all his patients, as you will find directly; merely consulting him in cases of great difficulty."

"That is being a *help-mate*, indeed. But are patients always willing to trust her?"

"Assuredly; she has too incontestably proved her skill not to be trusted. Hahnemann is no longer able to undergo the fatigue of attending to the multiplicity of cases crowded upon him. Madame Hahnemann is universally confided in, respected, and beloved, especially by the poor."

"I can well believe it. Is Hahnemann assisted by any of his children in the same manner as by his wife?"

"Not exactly in the same manner, but still he is assisted by them. One of his daughters,

and a fine intelligent girl she is, has the sole superintendence of an enormous folio, containing the names of all his correspondents and the dates of their letters; also of several other folios, containing the letters themselves, arranged in alphabetical order. His other children are of service to him in various ways. To assist him is their chief delight. As I told you before, I never beheld a more united family."

"Miss Hahnemann's services alone, must spare the doctor a vast deal of trouble."

"Yes, but still every moment of his time is employed. He is the most systematic man imaginable. In his library you will find thirty-six quarto volumes, his register of consultation, written entirely by himself. Apropos his handwriting is really worth seeing. What do you think of a man, eighty-four years of age, who writes a hand firm as a man's ought to be, fine enough to be a woman's, and elegant enough to be traced on copper plate, and this without spectacles?"

"Think? Why, I think I have wondered at what you told me as long as I could wonder, and now I can only come to the conclusion that Hahnemann and his wife should be ranked amongst the curiosities of Paris, and that the sight-seeing stranger has not beheld all the marvels until he has seen them."

"Our conversation was interrupted by a valet, who announced that Monsieur le Docteur was at leisure, and would see Madame la Comtesse."

She bade me good morning, saying, "It will be your turn next; I shall not keep you waiting long."

"I hope not," thought I, as a glance at the clock informed me that it was somewhat more than three hours since I first entered the house.

A few moments after Madame de R—— left me, I was startled by hearing the same valet distinctly pronounce my name, somewhat Frenchified, to be sure, and announce that Monsieur le Docteur was ready to receive me. I was too much surprised to do any thing but stare, until I remembered that I had placed my card in his hand some three hours before. I rose and followed him. He led the way through the same apartments I had traversed on entering. The doctor's reception chamber was situated at the further end of the suite.

Throwing open a door he loudly announced me and retired.

I stood in the presence of Monsieur le Docteur and Madame Hahnemann. The chamber I now entered was more simply decorated than any I had visited. In the centre of the room stood a long table; at its head a slightly elevated platform held a plain-looking desk covered with books. In front of the desk sat Madame Hahnemann, with a blank volume open before her, and a gold pen in her hand. Hahnemann was reclining in a comfortable arm chair on one side of the table. They rose to receive me, and I presented Madame Hahnemann a letter from Herr Dr. Hirsch-

feldt of Bremen, an eminent physician, who had formerly been a pupil of Hahnemann's.

While Madame Hahnemann was glancing through the letter, I had an opportunity of taking a survey of Hahnemann's person, for he had not yet resumed his seat. His slender and diminutive form was enveloped in a flowered dressing gown of rich materials, and too comfortable in its appearance to be of other than Parisian make. The crown of his large, beautifully proportioned head was covered by a skull-cap of black velvet. From beneath it strayed a few thin, snowy locks, which clustered about his noble forehead, and spoke of the advanced age, which the lingering freshness of his florid complexion seemed to deny. His eyes were dark, deep set, glittering, and full of animation. As he greeted me, he removed from his mouth a long painted pipe, the bowl of which nearly reached to his knees. But after the first salutation it was instantly resumed; as I was apprised by the volumes of blue smoke which began to curl about his head, as though to veil it from my injudicious scrutiny.

Madame Hahnemann gracefully expressed her gratification at the perusal of the letter, read a few lines of it to her husband in an undertone, and made several courteous remarks to me; while the doctor bowed, without again removing his long pipe. It was evident that he did not immediately recognise Dr. Hirschfeldt's name; and he was too much accustomed to receive letters of introduction to pay any attention to their contents.

Madame Hahnemann placed herself at the desk, with the doctor on her right hand and myself on her left. I stated the principal object of my visit, attempting to direct my conversation to Hahnemann, rather than to his wife. But I soon found that this was not *selon la règle*. Madame Hahnemann invariably replied, asking a multiplicity of questions, and noting the minutest symptoms of the case as fast as my answers were given. Several times she referred to her husband, who merely replied with his pipe between his teeth, "Yes, my child," or, "Good! my child; good!" And these were the only words that I as yet had heard him utter.

After some time spent in this manner, Madame Hahnemann accidentally asked, "Where was your friend first attacked?"

"In Germany," I replied.

Hahnemann had been listening attentively, although he had not spoken. The instant I uttered these words, his whole countenance brightened as though a sunbeam had suddenly fallen across it, and he exclaimed in an animated tone: "Have you been in Germany? You speak German, don't you?" The conversation had hitherto been carried on in French, but the ready, "Certainly," with which I answered his question, apparently gave him unfeigned pleasure.

He immediately commenced a conversation in his native tongue, inquiring how I was

pleased with Germany, what I thought of the inhabitants, their customs—whether I found the language difficult—how I was impressed with the scenery, and continuing an enthusiastic strain of eulogium upon his beloved country for some time. Then he asked from whom was my letter. When I pronounced the name of Doctor Hirschfeldt, which he had listened to so coldly before, he expressed the deepest interest in his welfare, and spoke of him with mingled affection and esteem.

I was too much delighted with the doctor's animated and feeling remarks to change the topic. Yet I felt he had lost sight, and was fast inducing me to do the same, of the primary object of my visit. Madame Hahnemann, however, though she smiled and joined in the conversation, had not forgotten the host of good people who were taking lessons of patience in the antechambers. She finally put an end to the discourse by a gentle admonition to her husband; warning him that he must not fatigue himself before the hours devoted to business were half spent. Turning to me, she apologized for the interruption, saying that they received their friends in the evening, and would be happy to see me, then immediately resumed the subject of my friend's indisposition.

After a few more inquiries, I received some medicine from her hands, with especial directions concerning the manner in which it was to be used. She also presented me with a paper, on which the different kinds of food, vegetables, seasoning, and odors, which counteracted the effects of homœopathic remedies, were enumerated. After cordially shaking hands with the kind old man and his talented and exemplary wife, I bade them good morning. One of the domestics in attendance conducted me down stairs, and handed me into the carriage; and I drove home, passing along a file of coaches, stretching from Hahnemann's door rather further than I could venture to mention and expect to be believed.

The favorable impression I had received on my first interview with Doctor and Madame Hahnemann, were subsequently strengthened and confirmed. Hahnemann expressed the same enthusiasm as before, at the mention of his own country, and on hearing that I was an American, made many inquiries about our young land, and especially concerning the progress of homœopathy. I could not, however, give him much information which he had not previously received from other lips.

Hahnemann, amongst his innumerable estimable qualities, possesses that of the most indefatigable industry. The pains which he takes in studying and examining a case, are almost incredible. He records with precision the minutest symptoms of every patient, all constitutional ailments, hereditary taints, and numerous other particulars; never trusting his memory, and only prescribing after a deliberation often tedious, though always necessary.

To the poor he has ever shown untiring be-

nevolence. Certain hours of the day are set apart for the reception of persons unable to offer compensation. They are attended with equal care, their symptoms recorded, and their diseases prescribed for with the same precision, which is bestowed upon the *haute noblesse* of the land. It frequently occurs that Hahnemann is so fatigued with his morning duties, that patients who apply for advice in the afternoon, are placed under the sole superintendence of Madame Hahnemann. But they seem to consider this gifted couple one in skill, as they are indeed one in heart.

Hahnemann appears to take pleasure in confessing to the world his affection, almost veneration for his wife. Shortly after his marriage, in a reply to the Gallican Homœopathic Society of Paris, who had made him their honorary president, the following paragraph occurs. "I love France and her noble people, so great, so generous, so disposed to rectify an abuse by the adoption of a new and efficient reform. This predilection has been augmented in my heart by my marriage with one of the noble daughters of France, in every respect worthy of her country." The letter concludes with the following beautiful sentiment: "Blind as many still remain, let us render them a service despite their repugnance. In course of time we shall receive their benedictions; for our principle, like sunlight, is one of the most prominent truths of nature."

## ELECTICISM AND HOMŒOPATHY.

To the Editor of *The American Journal of Homœopathy*.

SIR:—My eye has just fallen on your Journal for September, in which I perceive an article of rather extraordinary character, on which I feel it my duty to the public to make a few remarks. It is found on page 71, and onward. I can notice but a few of the most striking points.

1st. Whether the chair of Homœopathy in the E. M. Institute, was established by "liberality" to the former, or a desire to secure its influence in favor of the latter, is a question which would probably be decided hereabouts against the intimation of the writer. At all events, Homœopathy is surely not Eclecticism, and cannot, consistently with their general pretensions, be fostered by Eclectics, except as a means with which to dilute allopathy and reduce its power.

2d. If "regularly educated men," means men educated in what are called regular or Allopathic institutions, then surely, some of the Eclectic Professors must fall short. But we would not think the less of them for having acquired the knowledge of Allopathy through other channels. We object only to the deception involved in the assertion that the Profes-

sors of the E. M. I., were all "regularly educated medical men."

3d. That the Eclectics outnumber the Homœopaths in the United States is doubtless true; for almost every Allopath in the Union professes to be Eclectic.

4th. But the fourth paragraph contains the most gross misrepresentations conceivable. We should be much pleased if Dr. B., would tell us in what single state the labors of Eclectics changed the legislation. It made some little effort toward changing the medical laws of Ohio, but those efforts were only as a drop in the bucket, compared with those of the Botanics, who seem to have been very ingeniously forgotten by Dr. B. Col. Kolbourne and his friends did something in the matter; but Jarvis Pike & Co. did a hundred times as much.

5th. "But," says the Dr., "it was Eclectic which procured petitions from more than four-fifths of the voters of intelligence of this city, in favor of equalizing the rights of medical colleges, and of medical students in this State." We blush for the author of this assertion. If our memory serves, the number of signatures was about ten thousand, of which the Eclectics procured less than six thousand, and the Botanics nearly five. (See the introduction of petitions in the house.) Yet Dr. B. has the assurance to say that the Eclectics procured them all.

6th. "It was Eclectic which procured in the legislature, a majority of fifty-one to thirty-six against the monopoly of the Ohio Medical College in the Cincinnati Commercial Hospital." This assertion is equally destitute of truth. The Botanics did as much as the Eclectics towards what was done, which was to get the vote in the House. The Senate rejected it. We think it requires both houses to constitute "the legislature!"

7th. Eclectic has indeed done *something* toward "liberalizing public sentiment in the United States." Its tendency seems to be to induce people to believe that they may swallow, with equal propriety and safety, all absurdities in doctrine, and adopt every species of quackery. It "recognizes Homœopathy in its outlines of science," and "yielded it support." While it does not reject Allopathy in its doctrines of fever, narcotizing, &c. It abuses mercury and arsenic in Allopathy, but hugs them to its bosom in Homœopathy! It is very willing to swallow the labors of the Botanics, and to enrol their students in its classes; but very careful to give them no credit as reformers, or even assistants in reform. ("Eclectics procured the changes in the laws," "the signatures to petitions," etc.) A most liberal system of operations is the Eclectic. Its "paternal assistance" to other systems, reminds us of the motherly care which England was once so desirous to extend over this same blessed "land of the free and home of the brave."

8th. As to the "sin" of "Jealousy," we

hope the Eclectics are free from it; but some of their conduct seems to be hard to explain upon that supposition. For example: Why did a Professor, entirely free from this sin, state that the Eclectics "procured petitions from more than four-fifths of the voters," &c., when he knew that the Botanics procured more than two-fifths of all that were procured, unless jealous that they should have some of the credit he wanted, were he to give them their due?

9th. How is "their whole system of practice widely different from that of the Allopaths," when this same expounder of their faith lately declared, that Prof. Harrison "uttered a falsehood" when he intimated that the Eclectic faculty had discarded and denounced "*cupping, leeching and blistering*," and when they still adhere to the Allopathic system of narcotizing, &c.

10th. That "Eclecticism," which seems to be but a convenient name for a system of "all things to all men-ism," should be "more congenial to the American mind," (which is composed of all sorts of characters, engaged in all sorts of enterprises,) is not strange; but, that a "scientific faculty," totally free from the sin of prejudice, and so "liberal" as to adopt everything which commends itself as true or good, and so independent as not to be "prevented from the advocacy of anything that they regard as true," should nevertheless, allow themselves to be so humbugged as to be manufactured into "a great sheet knit at the four corners," inclosing beasts of every kind, "clean and unclean," and compelled to swallow them all together, without being able to discover the difference, is a little strange, is it not?

Yours truly,

A. C.

P. S.—Let not Dr. B. complain of this article. Had he confined his to a simple statement of facts in regard to the Eclectics, or had he given others their share of the credit he took to himself and his party, he would have been spared these corrections and comments.

A. C.

Cincinnati, Oct. 11th, 1849.

Who our correspondent is, we do not know. We place his communication in our columns, not because we feel any interest in the quarrel between Dr. Buchanan and A. C., nor do we intend to make this Journal the medium of a controversy between these gentlemen. But if what it stated by A. C. be true, and from information we have received from other sources we believe it is so, we think it will help to aid some Homœopaths in the West to perceive, they have been too hasty in forming a union with the Eclectics of Cincinnati. It will be noticed also, that most of what we published in the August number of this Journal, in relation to the Eclectic Medical Institute, is fully confirmed by A. C.

## TRUTHS AND THEIR RECEPTION.

(Continued from page 100.)

A reference, and nothing more, is all that can be allowed to such hackneyed stories as those of Galileo and the Professor of Padua, who obstinately refused to run the risk of conversion by looking through his glass; of Virgilius, Bishop of Salzburg, who was burnt by his learned contemporaries, for having asserted that there existed antipodes; of the opposition to Peruvian bark, which caused the physicians of Oliver Cromwell to allow him to die of ague, rather than that he should be permitted to take it; of Harvey being lampooned on one end of Europe to the other; of Jenner being the mark for all to hit at; and of Gall finding refuge and dying in a foreign country.

The leading circumstances, however, in connexion with one of these instances of discovery—that of the circulation of the blood—have lately been so ably illustrated in a work which, although professing to be one of fiction, develops in every page the profoundest knowledge of human nature, that it may be desirable to quote from it in this place. In her *Game Law Tales*, Miss Martineau introduces the reception of Harvey's theory, to substantiate the point now contended for, that the opinions of contemporary authorities are something worse than worthless as regards new doctrines. It is in the form of a dialogue, between Lords Holland, Seymour, and Southampton:—

"One object of Old Parr's going up to court is, that Harvey may study the case, and see if he can gain hints from it for lengthening our lives."

"But surely," said the clergyman, "it can matter but little what Dr. Harvey concludes and gives out about the case of this old parishioner of mine, or any other case. No one can have any respect for his judgment in the face of the wild doctrine he gives out about the blood."

"Does he adhere to that?" asked Lord Southampton.

"Yes," replied Lord Holland. "He will, ere long, publish another tract upon it. It is astounding to see a man, who seems otherwise rational and sensible, lose himself on this one point. There is no making any impression upon him; he persists as quietly as if all the wise people in the world agreed with him."

"Quietly?" said Lord Seymour: "I thought he was a passionate, turbulent fellow, who thought all the world a fool but himself."

"Whatever he may think," replied Lord Holland, "he says nothing to give one such an idea: on the contrary, the most amusing, and yet melancholy, part of the business is, his entire complacency. He is so self-satisfied, that nothing can move him."

"Dr. Oldham," said Southampton to the family physician, who sat smiling while this description of Harvey was given, "you have looked into this business—this pretended discovery—what have you to say to it?"

"But little, my lord; it is not worth so



many words as have just been spent upon it. There is not a physician in Europe who believes in this pretended discovery."

"After examination?"

"Surely, my lord. Any announcement of a discovery made by the physician whose merits have raised him to Dr. Harvey's post, cannot but meet with attention from a profession whose business it is to investigate the facts of the human frame and constitution."

"Then known facts are against him?"

"Entirely. No point, for instance, is better understood, than that the arteries are occupied by the vital spirits, which are concocted in the left side of the heart, from the air and blood in the lungs."

"And what says Harvey to this?"

"He controverts it, of course. Neither the opposition of all living physicians, nor even the silence of Galen on this notion of his, has the least effect upon him. It is sad and pernicious nonsense, and ruinous to a man who, but for this madness, might have been an honor to his profession. Of course, his opinions on any subject are of no value now."

"In the profession, do you mean, or out of it?"

"I believe there are a good many out of the profession, who listen to him, open-mouthed, as to every professor of new doctrines; but it is an affair in which no opinions but those of physicians can be of any consequence; and, as I said, not a physician in Europe believes Harvey's doctrines."

"It ought to be put down," said Lord Salisbury; to which the clergyman gave an emphatic assent, observing that, "in so important an affair as a great question about the human frame, false opinions must be most dangerous, and ought to be put down."

"And how is new knowledge to fare, when it comes?" said Lord Southampton. "By my observation, Dr. Harvey's notion is so following the course that new knowledge is wont to run, that I could myself almost suppose it to be true. It has been called nonsense; that is the first stage. Now, if it be called dangerous, that is the next. I shall amuse myself by watching for the third. When it is said there is nothing new in it, and that it was plain to all learned men before Harvey was born, I shall know how to apportion to Harvey his due honor."

"I thought, my lord, you had held my profession in respect," said the physician, with an uneasy smile.

"Am I not doing homage to a most eminent member of it—perhaps the most eminent in the world?" said Lord Southampton; "and it appears that I am rather before than behind others in doing so. There is no man, not even the greatest, who may not stand hat in hand before the wise physician; and I, for my humble part, would do even so."

The above sketch individualizes the entire class who have formed the subject of our present remarks, and all will at once recognise the portrait, from having met with the original,

and heard his very words applied, at one time or another, to such new views, and such expounders of new views, as may have awakened their interest and advocacy. We might here, therefore, close these considerations, were it not for the circumstance that, as all the illustrations which have been given refer to periods which have long passed away, some readers, even while they admit that the human nature which was thus manifested 50, 300, or 1800 years back, was the same human nature which, although improved, is now manifesting itself in the world, might be disposed, in the absence of all citations of modern examples, to estimate unduly the progress which has been made. This reason renders it necessary, therefore, to pause a short time longer, while we glance at the experience of our own times.

It is now not above five years, since a surgeon at Wellow, Notts, gave to the medical world a full and careful detail of the fact of a capital operation having been performed on the person of a laboring man in the hospital of that place, while in a state of entire unconsciousness, produced by certain manipulations which had been resorted to for the purpose. The evidence of the whole proceedings was complete and unquestionable. The man exhibited no emotion, "his whole frame rested in perfect stillness, not a muscle or nerve was seen to twitch," and on being gradually awakened, after the operation, he merely exclaimed, "I bless the Lord to find it's all over!" A lucid statement of the entire case, accompanied by all necessary certificates, was then forwarded to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, and read before that body. A discussion ensued, and the man was pronounced to be an impostor. There was no previous imputation on his character; he had been brought down for many months to the prospect of the grave, by what he and his attendants had believed to be a mortal disorder, so that there must have been every tendency to an earnest state of mind, and his avowment, that he had "suffered no pain," instead of producing him any advantage, must have deprived him of all that applause, usually so agreeable to persons of his class, which would otherwise have been bestowed upon him for his unflinching firmness in the ordeal he had passed. The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, however, were satisfied that he was an impostor, because there had been a total absence of all movement; and it was contended by them, that even if the man had been as insensible as was represented, certain reflex movements of various muscles would still have occurred, as a matter of course. The sole reward of the benevolent surgeon, therefore, in making the process known to his colleagues, was simply to find himself regarded as a dupe, or perhaps as an accessory to a deception, and with this the matter ended.

Notwithstanding the warning thus held out, however, to other inquirers, not to attempt, if they valued their reputation, any similar expe-

riments, it appears that several were daring enough to do so, and reports were occasionally furnished to the public of the extraction of teeth and the performance of other excruciating processes, without any sense of suffering on the part of the respective patients. At length a Dr. Esdaile, in India, announced the performance, not merely of one or two, but of a complete series of operations of a most painful kind—chiefly the removal of tumors—upon diseased patients in a state of unconsciousness, in the gaol infirmaries and hospitals at Calcutta, which led to a committee being constituted by the Indian Government to report upon the results of his method. This was followed by the establishment of a Government hospital, especially under Dr. Esdaile's superintendence, and the final result of many months of continued and public success was his receiving, at the hands of the authorities, the appointment of Presidency Surgeon. Meanwhile, however, these facts had stimulated an American physician to attempt the discovery of some palpable agent that should produce instantaneously, and with unvarying certainty, the effects which Dr. Esdaile and others had demonstrated, and which the Medico-Chirurgical Society and the profession, as a body, had so recently denounced as mere delusions, caused by trickery, and impossible under any circumstances. Hence the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of ether by Dr. C. T. Jackson, of Boston, in America, followed by the introduction of chloroform by Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh; and as the effects of these were so immediate and palpable as to put contest out of the question, the consequent recognition was unavoidable, that the state which was boldly asserted by the profession to be so inconsistent with nature that any supposition was more reasonable than that it could be true, was producible by simple and well-known agents, the power of which we might imagine far less potent than that of one human being acting by sympathy on another.

*To be continued.*

#### *For the American Journal of Homœopathy.*

Among the indigenous North American plants, it is a wonder that some other important remedies have not been proved. *Iris versicolor* has been known at the West, for many years, as a febrifuge, anti-dysenteric, &c., and the Indians in the Black Hawk country perform many wonderful cures of chronic complaints by its use. *Cimicifuga racemosa* is also a standard and official remedy in several schools. Its effects in rheumatic complaints alone entitle it to a proving by our school. *Celastrus scandens*, the bark of the root, and also the berries, show, under the botanic school treatment, highly anti-psoric virtues, and should be studied. Is it not strange that, in proving the *Lobelia*s, *L. Syphilitica* should have been neglected, and a preference given to *L. Cardi-*

medicine? *L. Syphilitica* has its name from having been successfully used by the Indians. Dr. Joslyn and his associates have showed us that *Rhus Radicans* covers all the ground of the European trial of *R. Tox.*; and may not the same be the case with *Veratrum Viride*? It may be found to cover ground as important, if not the same, as *Verat. Alb.* And should not the *Rhus Venenola*, erroneously named *Rhus Vernix*, be more fully tried, as it seems to be incomparably more active than any other *Rhus*, at least of this latitude? G.

Buffalo, Sept., 1849.

### HAHNEMANN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

Homœopathic Physicians of New-York city and its vicinity have organized an institution with the above title, and secured its incorporation under the law of the State.

The following named persons constitute the "Executive Council" for the ensuing year, viz.:

JOHN F. GRAY, M. D., *President.*

S. R. KIRBY, M. D., *Vice do.*

P. P. WELLS, M. D., *Corresponding Sec.*

J. W. METCALF, M. D., *Recording do.*

HUDSON KINSLEY, M. D. }

J. A. McVICKAR, M. D. }

A. S. BALL, M. D. }

*Trustees.*

A public meeting of the Academy will be held on the second Wednesday evening in January next, at which the President will deliver his inaugural address. It is expected that other members of the Academy will also address the meeting. The "Executive Council" intend to arrange for a large and an unusually interesting meeting of the friends of Homœopathia.

Arrangements will be made, with as little delay as possible, for a full course of instruction in all the branches of Medicine and Surgery; which will not be accomplished, however, during this winter.

Application will be made at the next session of the Legislature of this State for collegiate powers; and in view of the large number of petitioners which will come from every part of the State, we do not doubt a favorable result. It is intended to make the Hahnemann Academy of Medicine the most complete of any institution in our country for a thorough medical and surgical education. Many of our wealthy and intelligent citizens already perceive their interests, as well as that of genera-

tions to come, intimately connected with the prosperity of the above Academy, and as its objects and its operation become more fully developed, our citizens will no doubt amply contribute, to enable the Academy to erect a suitable building for a more complete course of medical and surgical instruction than has ever been attempted in this country. We have never seen the physicians of our school in this city more harmonious in views and feelings than on the subject of this Academy; and their zeal is of the right sort to carry forward the important work they have undertaken. Physicians of our school, throughout the State, will be supplied with the petition to the Legislature, and their co-operation, to secure the names of those friendly to the object expressed in said petition, is earnestly solicited. The Constitution and By-Laws will be published soon. Every graduated or licensed Physician of the State may become a corresponding member of the Academy, by signifying his belief in the doctrine embraced in the preamble to the Constitution, and paying an initiation fee of five dollars.

*For the American Journal of Homœopathy.*

In my last I named several plants which deserve trial, and am now induced to name some more. One friend suggests to me that I should not name so many at a time, as but few can be tried at once. Your work being intended to bind, and become a part of every physician's library, I think the objection of little worth. I will place a list before the profession, from which they may select, at pleasure, for years.

*Veronica beccabunga*, also *Veronica scatellata*, both of which, under the vulgar name of "Brook lime," have been used, externally and internally, with success, against old scrofulous ulcers, accompanied with symptoms of phthisis. Is not this a hint that a new antipsoric may be found here?

*Rhamnus catharticus*, a popular cathartic, and so-called "purifier of the blood," is also worth consideration. There are also antipsoric qualities to be inferred from the successful domestic use of *Uvularia perfoliata*; *Lycopodium virginicum*; *Arctium lappa*; *Rumex crispus*; and others of the *Rumex* genus; *Sambucus canadensis*; several species of the genus *Cornus*; *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*; *Senecio obovatus*; *Hamamelis virginica*; and many others.

We have several species of *Euphorbia*, all of which must of necessity be powerful agents upon the system. There is also the *Polygonum* genus; and the only useful one for food may be cited as a proof; the *Polygonum fagopyrum*, the flour of which, eaten in pancakes, causes an eruption upon the skin of man, and the herb of which causes so severe an eruption upon swine, that their ears have been known to drop off, from running among it while growing. More anon. G.

Buffalo, Oct., 1849.

A student of medicine, who had studied with a Homœopathic physician, applied to the "President of the Faculty of Rush Medical College," to know whether he could graduate in that Institution by attending two full courses, and complying with all the requirements of that Institution. The reply was, that "he could do so on one condition, and that only, that he should solemnly promise never to practise Homœopathy." The South-western Homœopathic Journal thinks this an act of meanness. We regard it quite consistent with the close monopoly organization of the medical faculties of the colleges. The time is near at hand when it will be looked upon as improper for the civil law to designate by whom students of medicine shall be educated for their professional duties. The intelligence of the people already penetrates the value of an Allopathic medical diploma. A rigid recorded examination of candidates for the doctorate by competent persons, who have no pecuniary interest in the sale of the diploma, would be of vast value to the profession and to the people.

**HOMŒOPATHIC ADHESIVE PLASTER.**—Dr. Nusser, after adverting to the inadmissibility of the common adhesive plaster as an application to wounds, recommends in its stead a plaster prepared with glue, a solution of which in water with a little alcohol added he carries about with him, to be spread on strips of calico when needed. Our common isinglass plaster is every way superior to such a fetid preparation.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

*Jahn's New Manual of Homœopathic Medicine.* Edited, with Annotations, by A. GERALD HULL, M.D. New York. Wm. Radde. Price \$3 00.

This work is a Repertory, and is well known to the profession. The volume under notice is the third American edition, and contains "the recent practical contributions and new remedies of the school, as far as its necessary condensation would allow." There are about two hundred pages of new matter, compiled, we

should judge, from the expressed obligations of the Editor, by Egbert Guernsey, M. D. This work of Jahr's needs no commendation from us to promote its sale, for a physician of our school could not think of performing his duties without it.

*Elements of Homœopathic Practice of Physic.*

This is an octavo of 372 pages, neatly got up, and published by Wm. Radde. It purports to be an Appendix to Dr. A. G. Hull's Laurie's "Homœopathic Domestic Medicine," arranged as a practical work for students, containing also the diseases of the urinary and genital organs.

*A Domestic Homœopathy*, restricted to its legitimate sphere of practice; together with rules for Diet and Regimen. By EDWARD C. CHEPMELL, M. D. First American Edition, with additions and improvements, by SAMUEL B. BARLOW, M. D. New York: Wm. Radde. 268 pp. Price 50 cents.

We have not compared it with the original English edition, therefore we cannot state what credit is due to the American editor, for it would seem that his modesty would not allow him to indicate by the usual marks what belongs to him.

It contains a long chapter on Dietetics, which is valuable. Works of this character are multiplying in the Homœopathic school, and with us they are of doubtful tendency. The one before us aims, and successfully, too, we think, to be useful in domestic practice, and, unlike all others, it only points out what may be done in the absence of a physician. We regard it as the best of its class, as no one of ordinary intelligence can fail to understand its directions. There is one serious fault in it, which is, too many medicines and too many different attenuations of the same drug. We presume a second edition will soon be called for, and we hope the Editor will correct this evil, and, to avoid all embarrassments, strike out the figures which mark the attenuations in the text, and give suitable directions on that subject in a preface. The Editor is a gentleman of learning, and of some thirty years' experience in the active duties of his profession; the last eight have been devoted to the practice of Homœopathia.

*Surgical Essays and Cases in Surgery.* By DAVID L. ROGERS, M. D.

This is an octavo of 151 pages, neatly printed. The object of its publication, as stated by the Author, is, "that it may serve as a memento of me to my friends, especially to that large number of them, among the medical profession of New York, who for many years honored me with their confidence. It is for them that this volume is especially intended, and to them it cannot fail to be interesting."

Dr. Rogers is an old friend of ours, with whom we were on terms of intimacy for years. We were associated with him as surgeon in the

Ophthalmic Infirmary of this city; in the New York School of Medicine; and in the private tuition of medical students. We had the honor of assisting him in many surgical operations, which are related in these Essays. They recall vividly to our mind circumstances in our early professional life. We are not a little indebted to Dr. R. for his example of industry and perseverance, which contributed so much to place him among the very best operative surgeons of this city. Surgery was his favorite branch, and to this, mainly, he devoted the energy of his mind with unusual success. Several years ago, after having acquired a competency, he retired from the active duties of his profession, yet, as the volume under notice shows, he still feels the advancement of surgery a high object. We wish him a long life and happiness, and regret that pecuniary prosperity should have deprived the profession of so able a surgeon.

J. EDW. STOHLMANN,

DEALER IN

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